



National 4-H Headquarters Staff

Cathann Kress, Ph.D. (ckress@csrees.usda.gov, 202-720-2908) is Director of National 4-H Headquarters and provides national leadership for 4-H programming and in youth development for CSREES. Her responsibilities include leadership in youth development research, education and program implementation, which includes providing information, resources, and support related to current and relevant youth issues; oversight for training for youth-serving professionals; support for the development of curriculum and materials related to current youth issues and administration of competitive grants programs.

Barbara Stone, Ph.D. (bstone@csrees.usda.gov, 202-720-5345) is the National Program Leader for Professional Development, specifically for youth development educators. Barbara provides leadership to the Professional Development Task Force, which sets the agenda for building a unified, sustainable professional development system and to promote the professional growth and learning of 4-H youth development educators that lead to positive youth outcomes.

Nancy Valentine, Ed.D. (nvalentine@csrees.usda.gov, 202-720-5347) is the National Program Leader for Early Child Care, specifically providing leadership for Early Care and Education, 4-H After-School, and Teen Out-of-School Time programs. Nancy also provides oversight and management of the Rural Youth Development grant program.

Sharon K.B. Wright (swright@csrees.usda.gov, 202-720-5075) is the National Program Leader for Youth at Risk Issues primarily through the CYFAR, CYFERnet, & 4-H Military Programs. Her responsibilities also include managing interagency agreements with the Army and Air Force to build collaborative programs for youth and families. Sharon also works with the CYFAR program to fund grants for children, youth and families at risk and provides administrative coordination to CYFERnet, which is an educational resource database for program, technology and evaluation needs.

Suzanne Le Menestrel, Ph.D. (slemenestrel@csrees.usda.gov, 202-720-2297) is the National Program Leader for Youth Development Research. With over 12 years of experience in youth development and out-of-school time research, Suzanne is responsible for the integration and coordination of youth development research with program development and implementation. Specifically, she analyzes, synthesizes, and evaluates current research for application within youth development programs; establishes and maintains collaborations with partners and researchers to identify mission relevant problems, opportunities, and issues warranting Federal attention and support.

Byron Garrett (bgarrett@csrees.usda.gov, 202-720-5253) is the National Program Leader for Mission Mandates. In this capacity, Byron provides leadership in support of our three mission areas: Citizenship, Healthy Lifestyles and Science, Engineering and Technology (SET). Byron also provides oversight of the National 4-H Conference. Byron will work to cultivate and sustain partnerships across the 4-H system.

Chuck Graves (cgraves@csrees.usda.gov, 202-720-3566) is National Program Coordinator for Leadership & Volunteer Development. He is assigned oversight responsibilities for the 4-H Name and Emblem to include: policy, authorization to use process, legal and tax-exempt status issues, and graphic standards. Chuck works with state cooperative extension specialists on programs involving extension volunteers and leadership and community development. He is also the CSREES liaison with other federal agencies and various public service organizations that conduct volunteer programs.

Janice Clark (jclark@csrees.usda.gov, 202-720-4436) is a Program Specialist supporting youth development Competitive Grants. Janice provides technical support and manages budgetary components for the Children, Youth and Families at-Risk Program, the Rural Youth Development Grant Program, cooperative support agreements and various other program grants. She also manages the CYFAR program online reporting system.

Jim Kahler (jkahler@csrees.usda.gov, 202-690-1568) is a Program Specialist for 4-H Science & Technology. Jim provides technical, management, and program support to 4-H; Children, Youth, and Families at Risk (CYFAR); and 4-H Military partnerships by managing web sites for the National 4-H Headquarters. He also helps to integrate various technologies into youth development programs.

Maria Arnold (marnold@csrees.usda.gov, 202-720-8857) is a Youth Development Program Specialist who serves as the National 4-H Conference Coordinator, providing management of the planning components for the National 4-H Conference. In this role, Maria guides the youth and adult members of the Conference Planning Committee, who serve as planning advisors and conference leaders.

Eddy Mentzer (ementzer@csrees.usda.gov, 202-690-2086) is a 4-H Military Youth Development Program Specialist and provides support to 4-H Military partnership programs, including Federal interagency agreements, grants to universities, training for 4-H and military personnel, and documenting and reporting accomplishments and promotion of the programs. Eddy has responsibility for providing technical support, including grant and budget management, integrating web technology and programs, data input and analysis, reporting, communications, and materials production for 4-H Military partnerships and programs.

Lisa Hampton (lhampton@csrees.usda.gov, 202-720-4087) is a Program Assistant for National 4-H Headquarters. Lisa reviews and evaluates technical procedures and provides technical assistance to National Program Leaders by compiling, analyzing and summarizing data gathered from a variety of sources.

Bianca Johnson, (bjohnsone@csrees.usda.gov, 202-720-5883) is a Program Assistant for National 4-H Headquarters. Bianca provides technical assistance to National Program Leaders of the National 4-H Headquarters.

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Mary McPhail Gray, Ph.D. (mgray@csrees.usda.gov, 202-720-2908) provides leadership as the Deputy Administrator for the Families, 4-H and Nutrition department within CSREES. She oversees the programs of the National 4-H Headquarters as well as the Family Consumer Science and Nutrition unit.

Colien Hefferan, Ph.D. (chefferan@csrees.usda.gov, 202-720-4423) provides leadership as the Administrator for the Cooperative State Research Education and Extension Service.

